

LAND COMMISSIONER ISSUES STATEMENT

(Continued from page one)
poll, soda, potash and alkali now in Nebraska, have found their genesis in the old rocks of the west, and drifted by prevailing winds, found lodgement in little estuaries on the eastern shore of the ancient inland ocean.

There are myriad marine shells on these sand hills, and sand granules yet intact show the very textural nature of the thrust up edges of rock in the mountains west. Are not these granules today disintegrating into their native elements and leaving on the surface of the hills their 2.32% potash to be washed by rains or to drift by winds into the valleys where lakes with impervious bottoms stop their migration.

Is there not now a chemical process going on in the laboratory of nature, making more and more of this sought-for material, or rather separating it from its native lithospheric element.

May not the lakes that yesterday were fresh, tomorrow bear the riches of the changing hills?

How magnificent is nature and how great our national need, and how much consideration for improving schools for bettering the race. How little seem the petty bickerings and scramble for preferred consideration. How small the mind that cannot view the wider horizon. Inference, inuendo, small minds that seek false motive in official acts, will have no effect upon this office and its management.

We have carefully considered every means for the conservation of this wealth of the State, and its early development. We are ready for an suggestion with this in view. We confess inefficient rules or knowledge when the first contract was made, and will undertake all honorable means for the modification of that contract to meet present emergencies. We will be glad of any public interest that will prompt a suggestion on for improvement in handling the affair.

THE MEAT SUPPLY IN UNITED STATES

Secretary of Agriculture Houston
Spoke at Conference of Live
Stock Industry Committee

In opening the conference of the United States Live Stock Industry Committee held in Washington September 5, 6, and 7, to consider ways and means for bettering conditions in the live stock industries and increasing production, Secretary Houston said in part:

"You know the situation with which we are confronted. We should have needed to give increasing attention to the meat supply if no war had broken out. Seventeen years ago there were about 192,000,000 cattle, milk cows, sheep, and hogs in the Nation; today there are about 179,500,000, or about 12,500,000 fewer than 17 years ago. And yet in that period this country has gained a nation. It has added to its population 26,000,000—three-quarters of that of France. Obviously the problem of increasing the supply of meat is one of the utmost concern. It is one of the three or four big tasks in the field of agriculture to which I have persistently directed attention during the last four years. But in this particular emergency it is immensely intensified. You know something of the conditions abroad. You know what war means in respect to the wastage of materials of every sort, and especially in respect to the wastage of animals—of food animals of draft animals. I do not know that it is possible—I suppose it is impossible—to get accurate estimates; but from all the indications we can get it is clear that the decrease of food animals can be measured only by tens of millions. You know also how difficult it will be to restore former conditions, to rebuild the foundations in the South after the Civil War and recall how long it took the South to get approximately where it was before the war.

"The live stock men of this nation have an enormous problem to solve—enormous if it were limited to the supply of meat for the in-

creasing population of this Nation. But your task is much bigger. You are going to be called upon increasingly to furnish meat products to Europe, and also breeding animals. In this emergency, I have no doubt, you have been confronted with unusual situations. One of our thoughts in calling you here was to have you reveal to us what is in your minds, to picture to us your difficulties, and to see if we could not in cooperation arrive at some sound conclusion and develop a constructive program which would not only assist the Nation and your indus-

tries in this very troubled period, increase the meat supply of the Nation, bring relief to our own consumers and those of the nations with which we are cooperating, but also lay foundations which will make for orderly and constructive development after the war.

"The Department of Agriculture is especially concerned with problems of production, of conservation of farm and animal products and materials, and of marketing. The Food Administration is peculiarly concerned with the food supply of the Nation. It is impossible to draw

any hard and fast line between their activities, and the two agencies obviously must work in very close contact and cooperation.

"One of the problems in which both the Food Administrator and the Department are concerned is that of distributing—surplus stock from sections of the country in which there may be a shortage of feedstuffs to sections of the country in which there is a greater abundance of feedstuffs and a shortage of live stock. Many sections of the United States are understocked. The average

farm in Iowa has about 108 or 110 head of poultry; the average farm in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Alabama, on the other hand, has between 17 and 20. The average farm in Iowa has about 35 hogs; the average farm in North Carolina and Alabama, about 5; in South Carolina, about 4. The average farm in Iowa has 6 milk cows; the average farm in North Carolina and Alabama less than 2; South Carolina, 1. Deficits in proportion appear in other states of the Union. There is no sound reason for a continuance of this state of things.

Many of the understocked States of the Union have peculiarly favorable conditions for livestock development, and I am glad to say that some of these, especially in the South, have recognized the fact and are making marked headway. Since 1913 or 1914, there has been a tendency toward the increase of live stock in the Nation, except sheep; and this increase has appeared very conspicuously in the South following the eradication of the cattle tick and the development of an active interest among farmers and business men."

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